

What is claimed is:

1. A block encoding method, comprising steps of:

5 determining whether an original block of m bits is a $(2N-1)^{st}$ block of m bits, " m " and N being positive integers; and

10 encoding, if the original block of m bits is the $(2N-1)^{st}$ block of m bits, the original block of m bits as an A type weighted block of n bits, and, if otherwise, encoding the original block of m bits as a B type weighted block of n bits, " n " being an odd integer larger than " m ".

2. The method of claim 1, wherein the bit number " a " of bit "1" in the A type weighted block of n bits satisfies a relation $2^m < nC_a$, " a " being a positive integer, and the bit number of "1" in the B type weighted block of n bits is given by " $n-a$ ".

3. A block decoding method, comprising steps of:

20 determining whether a weighted block of n bits is an A type block of n bits, " n " being an odd integer; and decoding, if the weighted block of n bits is the A type block of n bits, the A type block of n bits as a $(2N-1)^{st}$ original block of m bits and, if otherwise, decoding the 25 weighted block of n bits as a $2N^{th}$ original block of m bits, N being a positive integer and " m " being a positive integer

smaller than "n".

4. The method of claim 2, wherein the bit number "a" of "1" in the A type weighted block of n bits satisfies a relation $2^m < {}_nC_a$.

5. A coding/decoding apparatus, comprising:

10 a first buffer for outputting a digitalized image signal on a basis of an original block of m bits and generating a timing signal for notifying when the original block is outputted, "m" being a positive integer;

15 a first control part for determining whether the original block of m bits is a $(2N-1)^{st}$ original block of m bits, based on the timing signal, N being a positive integer;

20 an encoding part for encoding, if the original block of m bits is the $(2N-1)^{st}$ original block of m bits, the original block of m bits as an A type weighted block of n bits and, if otherwise, encoding the original block of m bits as a B type weighted block of n bits, "n" being an odd integer larger than "m";

a storage medium for storing the encoded block of n bits;

25 a second buffer for outputting the encoded block stored at the storage medium on a basis of n bits and generating a second timing signal for notifying when the encoded block is outputted;

a second control part for determining whether the encoded block of n bits is the A type block of n bits based on the second timing signal; and

5 a decoding part for decoding, if the encoded block of n bits is the A type block of n bits, the encoded block of n bits as the $(2N-1)^{st}$ original block of m bits and if otherwise, decoding the weighted block of n bits as the $2N^{th}$ original block of m bits.

10 6. The apparatus of claim 5, wherein the bit number "a" of bit "1" in the A type weighted block of n bits satisfies a relation $2^m < {}_nC_a$, "a" being a positive integer, and the bit number of "1" in the B type weighted block of n bits is given by "n-a".

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